



MINA M. LAYBA
Legislative Affairs Manager

CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
2100 THOUSAND OAKS BLVD.
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91362



WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov

Citizens Redistricting Commission

Janece Sargis
Commission Liaison



Toll Free: 1-866-356-5217
www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov

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Lew Stone

- 04.30.11.A

April 30, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commission:

I am a lifelong resident of Burbank. I retired from the Burbank Fire Department four weeks ago after a thirty year career. My comments regarding the redistricting of the 29th Congressional District are focused on my years in the fire department and the desire to have proper representation in Congress. Currently, the City of Burbank is split in half. From many perspectives, this makes absolutely no sense. For a variety of reasons, but most specifically public safety, the cities of Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena should be part of a congruent congressional district.

The cities of Pasadena, Glendale and Burbank are connected historically, economically, socially and operationally. They were all settled and incorporated around the turn of the last century, and as smaller cities on the outskirts of Los Angeles, have been connected ever since. The three cities have a long history of working together to effectively respond to public safety issues.

The three cities are founding members of the Verdugo Fire Communications Center. The cities operate in a pact that ignores borders, so that the closest apparatus responds to calls regardless of jurisdiction. There are now 23 fire stations in the system and up to 15 fire engines can be dispatched to a major incident with no delay. The regional dispatching system has been successful in saving taxpayer dollars and providing a higher level of service to participating cities' residents. The Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena Fire Departments comprise the backbone of a Unified Command System.

The Verdugo Fire Recruit Academy is another example of cooperation between Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena. This partnership between the cities provides the highest quality training for fire recruits hired by each of the departments. The academy is held at the Burbank Fire Training Center and upon successful completion of the academy, the recruits continue on to their respective cities as probationary firefighters. The recruits are taught by members of the departments within the Verdugo system, as well as other southern California fire agencies.

Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena also cooperate to effectively respond to other local emergencies and disasters. Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena are all part of a larger Joint Powers Authority that operates the Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICIS). While Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena are not the only member cities of the Joint Powers Authority, the

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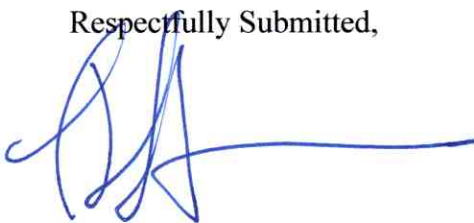
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geographic core of the ICIS service area centers around Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena. ICIS helps first responders, police and firefighters, communicate with each other for the cost of a small municipal communication system over a large regional footprint. This relationship ensures that Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena first responder units can communicate effectively amongst their own units when dealing with city challenges, but also that they can work together on shared regional challenges in the case of an earthquake or forest fire.

In much the same way, the Police Departments of the three cities work closely together. Other city departments have developed partnerships to produce "economies of scale." The Bob Hope Airport is yet another example of a joint powers agreement that enjoys success, in main part due to our community of interest between the cities.

For the above reasons and many additional factors, I highly recommend that the 29th Congressional District encompass Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena.

Respectfully Submitted,

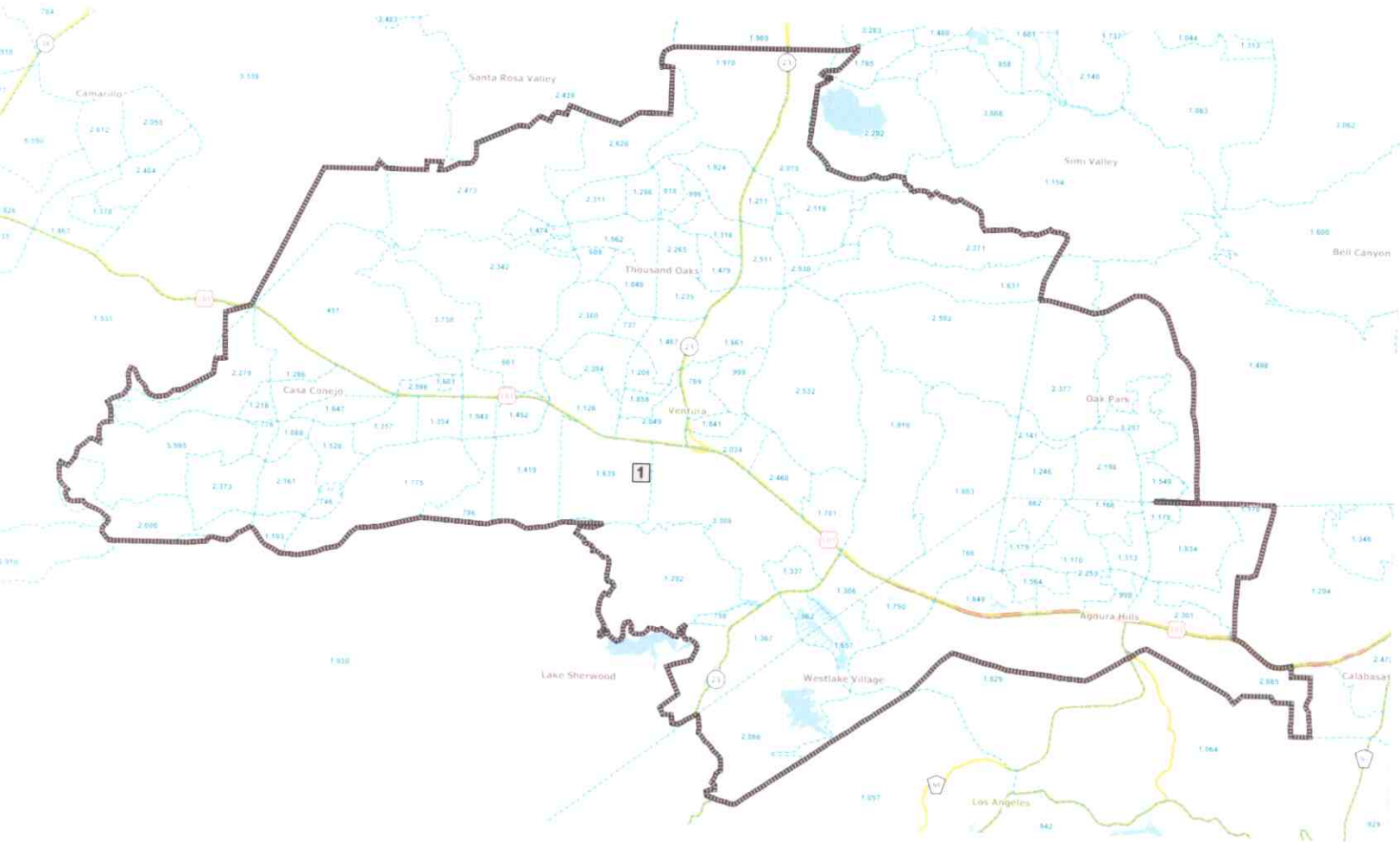


Lew Stone

-04.30.11.B

#1

SENATE MAP



Good afternoon. My name is Robert Mulein, I was born in Los Angeles and moved to the San Fernando Valley in 1956 when I was 4 years old. I am the product of California, having graduated from Van Nuys High School and then Humboldt State University. In 1975 I returned to Los Angeles from Northern California where I have lived since. For the past 23 years I have made my home in Tarzana where my wife and I have raised our two daughters. I have been a local Independent Insurance Agent and Broker for 31 years, and am now the Immediate Past President of the Reform Jewish Congregation known as Temple Kol Tikvah, of Woodland Hills.

When you go out to the San Gabriel Valley, to Riverside County, and elsewhere in the State you will see that there are separately incorporated cities of 20,000 to 80,000 people. We who live in Los Angeles, also live in communities of this size, they just happen to be within the city limits of Los Angeles. As our communities are not separately incorporated cities, I've come here today to make sure you understand the communities of the San Fernando Valley.

The first thing to understand is that the Valley is separated from the rest of the city of Los Angeles by the wonderful Santa Monica Mountains. When you look at the official divisions of the city of Los Angeles, they all recognize that the Valley is separate from the rest of the city, and they understand that the West Valley and the East Valley are also two very distinct regions of the greater San Fernando Valley, having the 405 freeway as the natural dividing line.

I have for you an exhibit of the Los Angeles Unified School District showing their Local Districts. One district is in the West San Fernando Valley, shown in tan, and a separate local district is in the East San Fernando Valley, shown in pink. Both Districts are north of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Here is another exhibit showing the Bureaus and Areas of the Los Angeles Police Department. Two things are important to note as you look at this exhibit. First you will see that the Police Department's Valley Bureau is separate from the rest of Los Angeles. Secondly the Valley Bureau is broken into seven areas, three that are entirely west of the 405 Freeway that serve the West San Fernando Valley, shown in light blue, and four areas that are entirely east of the 405 Freeway that serve the East San Fernando Valley, shown in dark blue.

My last exhibit is what I think should guide you the most. This exhibit shows the Neighborhood Councils of Los Angeles which represent the official neighborhoods of the City of Los Angeles. There are 91 different communities within the City of Los Angeles, each with its own Neighborhood Council. 31 of these neighborhoods and Neighborhood Councils are in the Valley.

Please note that every one of the 91 neighborhoods within the City is located either ENTIRELY within the Valley or ENTIRELY outside of the Valley. That is because the Valley is separate and distinct from the rest of Los Angeles.

As I just mentioned within the Valley there are 31 District Neighborhood Councils. You will note that 15 of these are in the West San Fernando Valley, shown in light blue, and all are west of the 405 Freeway. The other 16 Neighborhood Councils for the 16 neighborhoods in the East San Fernando Valley, shown in purple, are all located east of the 405 Freeway. Again and again we see the natural dividing lines of both the 405 Freeway and the Santa Monica Mountains.

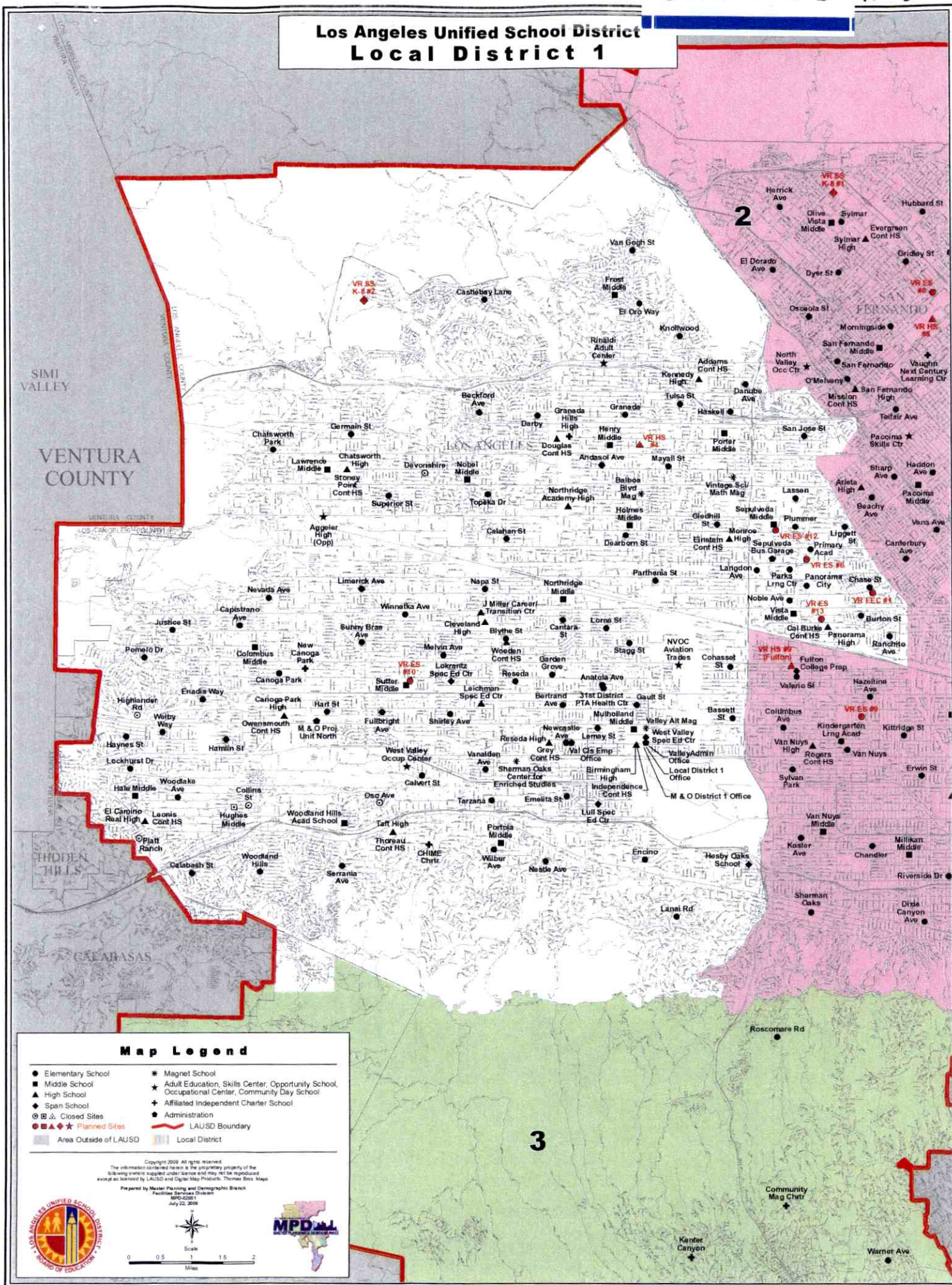
The West San Fernando Valley is a community of interest and identity. Please do not chop it up into a whole variety of different districts as what was done in 2001. Back then the politicians in Sacramento chopped the West Valley into three Congressional Districts when it should be just one. The politicians in Sacramento chopped the West Valley into five State Senate Districts when we should have just one. As an aside my home is located in the far west end of the State Senate District that ostensibly is a Pasadena seat! And the politicians chopped us into five Assembly Districts when we should have just two. The mistakes of 2001 should not be repeated in 2011!

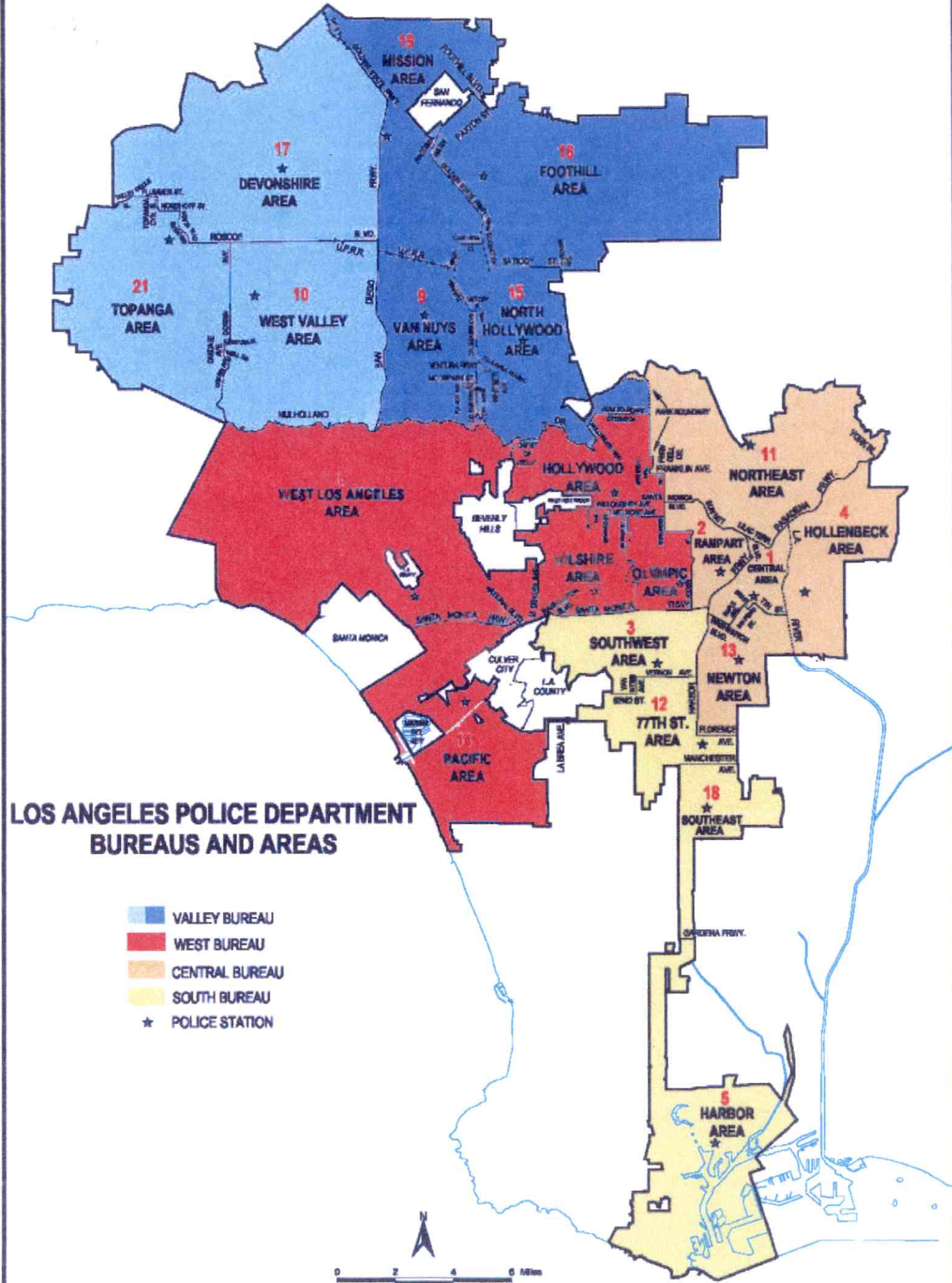
We deserve representation that makes sense and is not scattered and divided. Do not do to the West San Fernando Valley what was done by the politicians ten years ago... please keep the West San Fernando Valley together.

Thank you for your time today and consideration of my message.

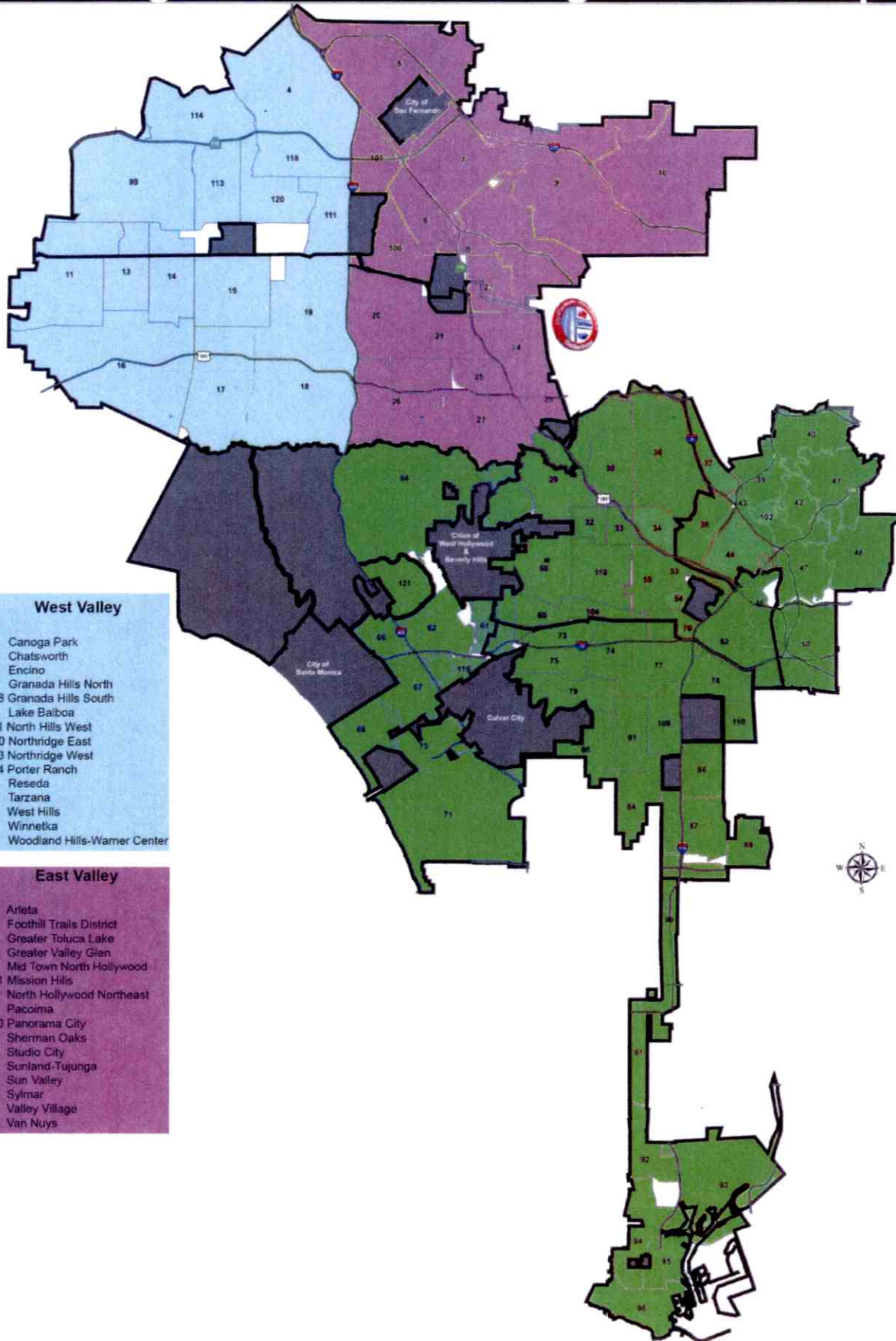
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Los Angeles Unified School District Local District 1





2010 Neighborhood Council Regional Area Map



Subj: Public comment to CRC April 30,2011
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
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— 04.30.11. AX



To: Citizens Redistricting Commission
San Fernando City Chambers

April 30,2011

Good afternoon. Thanks for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Joe Vitti and I have been a resident of the San Fernando Valley for 45 years. I am the President of Valley VOTE, a nonprofit 501c4 organization that promotes good governance for citizens of the San Fernando Valley. I am also a Board member of the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce and a Director on the Board of the United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley.

As a San Fernando Valley resident, one would expect the members of the State Assembly and the State Senate, who represent the Valley's interests in Sacramento would LIVE in the Valley. They would be shopping at the Valley malls, buying their groceries at the local markets and sending their children to neighborhood schools. They would have a first hand understanding of what is going on in Valley communities. Unfortunately, with the present Legislature drawn district boundaries, the overwhelming majority of the Valley's state elected representatives do not live in the Valley; State Assembly Member Julia Brownley lives in Santa Monica. Assembly member Mike Feuer lives in West Hollywood. Assembly member Cameron Smyth lives in Santa Clarita. Assembly member Mike Gatto lives in Silver Lake.

State Senator Carol Liu lives in Pasadena and Senator Sharon Runner lives in the Antelope Valley. Senator Fran Pavley lives in Agoura Hills. If you happen to live in the Chatsworth area of the Valley with a postal zip number 91311 your State Assembly member could be Cameron Smyth or Jeff Gorell or Bob Blumenfield. This is totally unacceptable.

The population of the San Fernando Valley is about 1.8 million people, when you include the Valley portion of Los Angeles and the cities of Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, and San Fernando. The ideal representation would be to have two state senators covering the Valley, representing approximately 900,000 residents each. Then, two state assembly representatives with about 450,000 residents each would be placed within the boundaries of each Senate district. All six state representatives would live in the Valley. If there is some difficulty achieving this ideal mapping of the districts, due to the new census data, every effort should be made to have a clear majority of Valley citizens living in every new district created for the Valley.

This political representation injustice to Valley interests is a consequence of district boundary maps drawn by legislators to provide voting blocks to ensure election for Democratic and Republican Party candidates. As all of you are aware, the

gerrymandering of these districts has resulted in a reelection rate of about 98 percent for incumbents in California legislative races. Last November all state legislators who ran for reelection won their contests.

When creating new boundaries please respect the geographic integrity of the San Fernando Valley and geographic compactness of districts for true representation of Valley communities. I am confident that your Commission will do all you can to correct this district boundary gerrymandering.

**Thank you again
Joe Vitti**



Joe Vitti is President of Valley VOTE and a Board member of the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce and a Director of The United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley

Contact information

